

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

September 2017

A Note From the President



I am happy to welcome you back to Quest. I hope that you all had a great summer break and are

gearing up to participate in our diverse and exciting fall semester. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the curriculum and

scheduling committees, we now have more class choices than ever. In fact, on many days, there are three courses offered in a single time slot.

At the June council meeting, two new ad hoc committees were formed: 1) Mentoring, co-chaired by Larry Shapiro and Arlene Hajinlian; and 2) Social Events, co-chaired by Bobbie Gold and John Spiegel. It is the hope of the entire council that these new committees will help both new and existing

members in making Quest an interesting and enjoyable place to be.

Our membership committee has been interviewing and accepting new members. Let us all make an effort to meet and welcome them.

I am eager to begin my term as President. Please feel free to come to me with your concerns.

Bob Gottfried

2017-18 Committee Chairs

Membership: **Roy Clary**
 Curriculum: **Mary Ann Donnelly**
 Scheduling: **Caroline Thompson**
 Emergency Response: **Doreen Di Martini**
 Technology: **Wayne Cotter**
 Facilities: **John Sicree**
 Q Review: **Wayne Cotter**
 Q News: **Carolyn McGuire**
 Freshman Class: **Betty Farber** and **Pam Gemelli**
 Marketing and Communications: **Leslie Goldman**
 Travel: **Michael Wellner** and **Carolyn McGuire**
 Auditing: **Herbert Folpe**
 Caring: **Liesje ten Houten** and **Michael Wellner**
 Coffee: **Liesje ten Houten**
 Diversity: **Doreen Di Martini** and **Vivian Oliver**
 New Ad Hoc Committee for Mentoring:
Larry Shapiro and **Arlene Hajinlian**
 New Ad Hoc Committee for Social Events:
Bobbie Gold and **John Spiegel**

Guest Speaker Schedule

September 13: Seamus Scanlon, playwright and librarian at CWE will present a reading of his new play "The Blood Flow Game".

September 27: **Ann Goldstein**, translator of Italian author Elena Ferrante, one of Italy's most beloved and acclaimed writers. Her series of books to be a forthcoming series via HBO.

October 11: **Eric Sanderson**, Senior Conservation Ecologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society. Author of Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City

October 25: **David Kaufman**, author of "Some Enchanted Evening", a biography of Mary Martin. He will be interviewed by David Finkle, a drama critic for Theatermania.com

November 8: General Membership Meeting

December 6: **Loren Schoenberg**, tenor saxophonist, author, educator, jazz historian and winner of two Grammys He is a founding director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem.

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Barbara Blakemore, Third President of Quest, Passes at Age 92

We are sad to announce the passing of Barbara Blakemore who served as the president of Quest from 2000 to 2002. Prior to joining our organization, Barbara had a very active career in magazine publishing, mostly at the McCall Corporation where she served 19 years as the Fiction Editor of Red Book Magazine. She retired as the Managing Editor of Family Circle magazine before joining Quest. In recent years, although no longer an active member, she enthusiastically assisted in proofreading various issues of our Quest publications.

New York Historical Society Visit

by Bob Moore

On Wednesday, June 28th, a group of 20 Questers visited the New York Historical Society for a docent-led tour of "World War I Beyond the Trenches." This impressive exhibit featured more than 55 artworks, including John Singer Sargent's masterpiece, Gassed, which has never traveled to New York before; Childe Hassam's *The Fourth of July*, 1916, and powerful works by George Bellows, Georgia O'Keeffe, Horace

Pippin, and Claggett Wilson, among other American artists.

Our docents provided excellent background and explained the context in which the paintings were created. Despite the United States' late entry into the war, the effects of the war were devastating and represented the first time US troops had been sent abroad to face new and terrifying weapons and tactics. The exhibition brought this to light very forcefully.



Quest Scholarship Awards



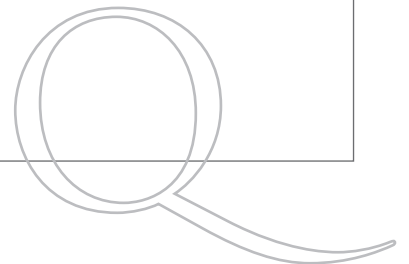
Michael Wellner presented Quest Scholarship awards to three deserving CWE students: Farrah Bell, William Collazo, and Maarja Sau. The award is for Leadership, Scholarship and community Service. The ceremony was on May 19, 2017.

Q-Toon

by Wayne Cotter



"In high school I wanted to attend only classes I liked, cut those I didn't, and never do homework. All my wishes have finally been granted!"



Quest Goes to Malta* and Sicily *by Howard Einbinder and Michael Wellner*



In June, twelve Quest members (and two friends) spent nine days in Sicily, on a custom tailored tour (thank you, Carolyn McGuire!). The weather was absolutely perfect as we were driven all around this wonderful island. Filled with ancient Greek and Roman ruins, fabulous scenery, superb Italian food and wine, there is a keen sense of history on every corner of this lovely island. Our journey began with a welcome cocktail and dinner in Catania, where we met our wonderful tour guide, Valeria, and were treated to a spectacular sunset view of Mount Etna (complete with white plumes of smoke) from the hotel's roof deck.

Our first excursion was to see the famous Greek and Roman ruins in the city of Siracusa, near the Mediterranean shore, and the charming small town of Noto – where we just missed a wedding at the central

Cathedral. Next we drove to Piazza Armerina to see the world famous ancient mosaics, then on to the capital city of Palermo. This cosmopolitan city features its own version of New York's Park Avenue, with several high-end shops, as well world class architecture at every turn.

From Palermo we stopped at the beautiful old city of Cefalu, en route to the truly spectacular hilltop town of Taormina, our final destination, where our hotel was right on the Ionian Sea. A bus took us to town daily, and what a town it was! Taormina is truly a special place – not to be missed.

*Before flying to meet the rest of the group in Sicily, eight of us spent a wonderful five days on the beautiful islands of Malta, a very special place indeed.

End of Year Luncheon *Battery Gardens, May 10, 2017*



Ice Age Art

by Deborah Yaffe

In June, I went on a tour in France to see Ice Age art, paintings of animals on cave walls that were made by prehistoric man 15,000 to 30,000 years ago. Reindeer, horses, bison, and mammoths were the most common animals, but there were also other cave markings, including stencils of human hands, mysterious groupings of dots and some geometric shapes of unknown meaning.

What makes the art so amazing is how modern the animals look. You would think they were drawn today, but carbon dating and other scientific methods have established their true age beyond any doubt. Lascaux is the best-known cave but there are many others in France, Spain and other countries. We were very lucky to have Dr. Paul Bahn as our guide; he is one of the world's top experts.

We discovered more than the paintings. There are engravings of animals in the soft limestone of the cave walls and large sculpted animals in open-air rock shelters. Contrary to popular belief, prehistoric humans did not live in caves but in rock shelters located under huge rock ledges that extended out from the mountains.

Archaeologists have many theories about the art. It might have been used for rituals or hunting magic, but in truth no one knows why this art was created or how these prehistoric people learned to draw so well. At the end of the tour our ideas about prehistory were drastically changed, and it was an unforgettable experience.



Eva Shatkin's 99th Birthday Party at Quest



Creative Corner

Let Us Go

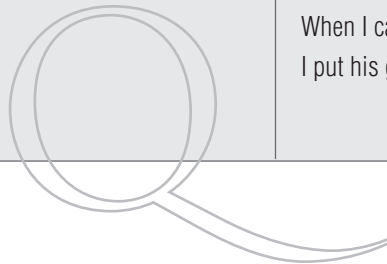
by Betty Farber

Lets go then, you and I
To England, Wales, or the
Isle of Skye
To Greece and Turkey to drink
and dance
To Germany, Italy, Spain and
France.
Denmark, Norway and Sweden
are cool.
Let's go to a village in
Greenland called "Thule."
Or fly to the Southern
Hemisphere.
It's winter there, when it's
summer here.
I love where I live, so please
don't have pity,
But save me from August in
New York City!

Lava and Ladybugs

by Helen Saffran

On Mt. Etna in Sicily
Where Etna the volcano,
Called "her highness" by
the locals,
Is a smoky presence
I had a precious interaction
With a man in Sicilian dress
Who sat on the ground
With a beautiful brown goat
on his lap.
I gave him a few coins and
petted his goat.
He smiled at me radiantly
and gave me
A black lava rock with two fake
ladybugs on it
From a small basket full of them.
Then he wished me
A wonderful life.
When I came home
I put his gift on my altar.



Bits and Pieces... Who's Doing What

Seamus Scanlon-Playwright CWE Librarian, **Seamus Scanlon** is an Irish playwright who has staged his plays at both the CELL Theatre and right here at QUEST. He also just completed a film version of "The Long Wet Grass" which is a 3 act play dealing with the "troubles" and their effect on the Irish population. In his new play "The Blood Flow Game" which is a sequel to his first play, Victor, the lead character and his former lover clash over missed opportunities and lethal misunderstandings set against the backdrop of the guerilla war in Northern Ireland. The four act play is set in a border town between 1985 and 1992. On September 13th Seamus will launch a reading of his new play "The Blood Flow Game" right here at QUEST at 1:00 pm September 13th as part of our Guest Lecture Series. We look forward to seeing it.

Pete and Judy Weis

traveled through northern Spain plus a bit of Portugal and a bit of France in June. Photo is in front of Guggenheim museum in Bilbao (no spiral here!)



Hosting a Fund Raiser, **Marilyn Rosen** enjoyed a group of Questers who could be found at the *PIT Improve Theatre* on East 24th Street on Sunday June 4th. The theatre was the venue for a fund raiser for MVRP a memorial foundation for Marilyn's grandson who was very involved in the arts but whose life was cut short at 21 due to various challenges. The event consisted of performances by young people in comedy, music and voice.

Freshman Class The first meeting of the Fall semester will be held on Tuesday September 26th at Noon. The room will be listed on the bulletin board. All members who have enrolled during 2017 are welcome to attend... see **Pam Gemelli** or **Betty Farber** for more information

An energetic and fit Quester **Larry Shapiro** is really having an adventure by going hiking in August in Montana and Alberta: Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks. Sounds like fun but exhausting. Good Luck Larry.

Eileen Kelly was named Senior Stroller in "Street Wise," a publication of the New York City Department of Transportation has featured our own Eileen Kelly as the epitome of safety on the city streets. Eileen uses public transportation and also walks from place to place. She's been using the streets for the past 47 years. She lives in Greenwich Village, which is a mixed area of apartment houses, town houses and commercial and educational institutions. It is very crowded but, despite the crowding, Eileen still finds the city a convenient spot for socialization, shopping, museums, concerts and theatre.

Jerry Wiesenberg had a most exciting summer experience. He and his lady friend were invited to a dinner and show at the Magic Club from which Jerry had resigned two or three years ago. Jerry had been president of that club for seven years as well as treasurer for ten years or more.

As the program was about to start, Jerry's name was called and he was invited up on the stage by the club president. To his great surprise, he was presented with a beautiful plaque in recognition of service to the club. Needless to say, Jerry was shocked and extremely pleased by the award.



After spending only 2 weeks in Chautauqua in 2015, **Arlene Hajinlian** fell in love and bought a condo right in walking distance to all the festivities. She's now completely committed to spending her summers there and is thrilled to have so many Questers joining her.

Bob Moore and his wife **MAC Chiulli** made a brief visit to Cuba over the summer. After spending three days in the city of Camaguey which is a center of arts in Cuba, about 400 miles from Havana to the east, they flew to Havana to attend the 4th July party at the residence of the US Charge d'Affaire in Cuba. This was a large party, unfortunately attended by a heavy rainstorm, held in the magnificent mansion which is used by the representative of the United States in Cuba and his wife who is a friend of MAC's. Many of the international diplomatic corps were there as well as a strong contingent of the Cuban arts community.

Bob and Ellen Gottfried

are the proud grandparents of their son's new baby boy, Will Gottfried. Congratulations to all.



Loretta Menger is spending time in Shawnee Delaware for a golf camp week. Then she is going from on a small ship calling at Cannes to Luca and other ports in Italy then finishing up in Florence. Quite a unique summer activity.



Kudos for the Drama Workshop production of "**Neil and Noel**". This end of year production was held on May 10th preceding the annual luncheon. Between Neil Simon and Noel Coward, laughter followed us to Battery Gardens.

continued other side

Galway International Arts Festival

by Carolyn McGuire

On a lovely July day, eight Questers converged at the Jury's Inn Galway to begin a week-long participation in the annual Galway International Arts Festival.

After checking in and taking a short nap, we went on a walking tour of Galway City. We visited the Spanish Arch, a 16th century bastion and safe harbor for Spanish ships doing business in Galway; Lynch's Castle, where the mayor hung his own son out the window for committing a crime; historic Eyre Square and many other sites. We then met at a local specialty restaurant for our welcome dinner.

The next few afternoons were taken up with various visual arts installations by famous artists. We also managed to see a few matinees and were even invited to a reading of "Mondays are Murders," a crime fiction panel reading from various new works sponsored by our own Seamus Scanlon, whose film,



"The Long Wet Grass," is a finalist in the film competitions.

We totally enjoyed photo ops right at the river outside of our hotel. Today, if you go to Galway, you might see Betty's cane floating in the River Corrib... the railings don't stop canes from falling in. Traditional music sessions, play readings and avant guard and experimental theatre stimulated our brain cells.

We spent two days on the road. The first trip was out to the Connemara coast, the most beautiful area of Ireland. We stopped at Kylemore Abbey, frequently depicted in advertisements for Ireland. The second trip was to the Cliffs of Moher, a natural wonder soaring above the Atlantic for five miles, and The Burren, also an interesting site.

Dinners in pubs, music and Irish dancing rounded out the festival trip and we reluctantly headed back home after a week of Irish immersion.



Bits and Pieces... Who's Doing What

continued from other side

Bobbie Gold has spent some glorious days at her Berkshire home. She is on a lake with spectacular views and enjoys kayaking to enjoy the serenity of the mountains, trees and water. She volunteers at Tanglewood and Shakespeare & Co.

Bobby enjoyed a wonderful dancing program at Jacob's Pillow and says that "Ragtime," presented at the Barrington Stage, held up very well since its opening about 20 years ago. She generally finds that there is so much to do culturally that it's hard to find time.

Common Ground On The Hill

MaryBeth Ykoubian spent two weeks in this roots music and arts camp. There are two weeks of classes, concerts, dances and other activities in the traditional roots-based arts, held on the campus of McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. Over 275 workshops are taught by more than 150 nationally and internationally recognized instructors. MaryBeth

enrolled in blues piano and world dance.

Ruth Ward will be spending four weeks in a summer program at the Sorbonne University in Paris. Her classmates will be other Francophiles of all ages from many countries around the world. The courses Ruth has chosen include "French Identity," "History" and "Literary Classics." In the evening, she will enjoy lectures on topics such as "Shakespeare and France," "Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation," "Musical Diversity" and "Jane Austen and the Tourist Trail."

Sounds like a Quest schedule of courses, non? Ruth's goal is to leave no photo untaken and no crêpe unsavored.

Quest member, **Jennifer Jolly**, published a book: "*The Elusive Baboon: A Ugandan Odyssey*," in July. It is now available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Primatologist Vernon Reynolds, Professor Emeritus

Oxford University, writes, "With formidable wit and vivid powers of observation, Jennifer Jolly's style is a cross between Monty Python and

Michael Palin. She writes about the perils of travel in up-country Uganda in the 1960s against a background of ever-increasing political unrest and a chronic shortage of money. Family life takes place in a tent in the wilds of nowhere. Pregnancy makes no difference. By day her husband Cliff abandons her to go in search of baboons. By night, elephants and buffaloes come visiting. A must-read for those who love travel and adventure.

